



REQUEST FORM FOR FILING OF AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The company patent representative or foreign patent associate is requested to complete this form when forwarding information or prior art to U.S. Patent Attorney for filing an Information Disclosure Statement with respect to a pending U.S. patent application.

1. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION [complete all items 1(a)-(e) below]

- (a) Inventor(s) **Jiro Tateyama et al.**
(b) U.S. Application No. **10/041,647**
(c) U.S. Filing Date **January 10, 2002**
(d) Your Reference
(e) Our Reference **P199-1171USA (C2142-DIV1) /
CFM01209USA**

2. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FILING PROCEDURE

[complete item 2(a), 2(b) or 2(c) below]

(a) [] Certification is not required OR payment of PTO fee is elected instead of certification.
Accordingly, the certification statement of item 3 is not completed.

(b) [X] Certification is required OR Certification is elected instead of PTO fee payment.
Accordingly, the certification statement of item 3(a) or (b) is completed below.

(c) [] Other- specify Petition, PTO fee payment and Certification
(e.g., file continuation or file continuation with Petition to Withdraw)

3. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT [complete item 3(a) or 3(b) below if applicable]

(a) [X] Each item of information for this request for filing of an Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application on July 29, 2003 [specify date]. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)).

or

(b) [] No item of information for this request for filing an Information Disclosure Statement: (1) was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office; or (2) was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) (i.e., inventor; company patent representative or foreign patent associate who prepares or prosecutes the application; or other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application) before _____ [specify date]. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2)).

The undersigned certifies that all statements made above of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true after making reasonable inquiry.

(c) [X] File an Information Disclosure Statement at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the due date of October 29, 2003 [date specified should be within 3 months of the above Item 3(a) or 3(b) date].

October 17, 2003
Date

Information submitted by:
[check box applicable]


Signature
Name: Toshiaki Sato
[] Company Patent Representative
[X] Foreign Patent Associate



00862.002136.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KOJI FUKUNAGA ET AL.

Application No.: 09/025,133

Filed: February 17, 1998

For: DATA TRANSMISSION
APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND
METHOD, AND IMAGE
PROCESSING APPARATUS

) Examiner: A. Elamin

) Group Art Unit: 2182

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2003

Technology Center 2100

: October 28, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SEVENTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed, together with copies of two Japanese Official Letters, both dated July 29, 2003, citing several of them.

For the concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is referred to the attached English abstracts, and in the case of JPA 4-227524, to its counterpart U.S. Patent No. 5,303,336, which is also cited. In addition, Applicants submit the following comments on the relevance of several of the cited documents.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 4-227524 (Kageyama et al.) relates to a printing system capable of sharing a print server by a plurality of terminals such as

work stations and personal computers. According to Kageyama et al., the print server identifies a printing protocol based on a printing protocol identifier added to a header portion of document data, and changes a printing protocol in accordance with the identified print protocol. The document data is transferred with a predetermined communication protocol.

Even if Kageyama et al. discloses an operation when communication is performed with a communication protocol corresponding to an initial protocol of the present invention, however, Applicants submit that that document contains no teaching about how the print server and the printing apparatus decides a communication protocol if the document data are not communicated with the predetermined communication protocol.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 9-268860 (Hirooka) relates to a printing apparatus capable of automatically connecting with a host computer whose communication procedure is different from that of the printing apparatus. According to Hirooka, the printing apparatus selects a common interface driver 3001 as an interface driver to communicate with the host computer. When an event such as a signal changing its ON/OFF state or the lapse of predetermined data reception period occurs, the printing apparatus stores the type of the event, state change, the timing of the state change, and the states of signal lines at the time in addition to signals and data patterns which have been stored in a storage device, such as an NVRAM 2003 or an external memory 2010. Then the printing apparatus decides an interface driver to be used in the communication with the host computer if the data pattern matches any of a plurality of communication procedures (signals, data types and timings).

Thus, the Hirooka system decides that the interface driver is to communicate with the host computer based on a signal or data transmitted with a predetermined protocol supported by the common interface driver. Similarly to Kageyama

et al., Hirooka merely discloses an operation when communication is performed with a communication protocol corresponding to the initial protocol of the present invention, and Applicants submit that Hirooka contains no description about an operation when the document data and signal are not communicated using a predetermined communication protocol.

Each of the Japanese-language items cited in this Information Disclosure Statement cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement, although the foreign applications in question are not counterparts of the present application. The cited U.S. patent is submitted as an English counterpart of one of the Japanese documents. Please charge any fee deemed to be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account 06-1205.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 78,286

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